



# RCA Amateur Radio Club

## Indianapolis, IN

ARRL Affiliated Club

[www.w9rca.org](http://www.w9rca.org)

MAY 2022

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RCA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM  
AT NORTH SIDE EVENTS, IN THE GAME ROOM, FORMERLY THE  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, 2100 EAST 71<sup>st</sup>, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

### RCA ARC NEWS

**APRIL MEETING SUMMARY** – Thanks to all who attended the April meeting. The upcoming \$35 license fee for most amateur radio transactions was discussed. The fee which goes into effect April 19 will not include license upgrades. The Indy Hamfest, or lack thereof, was discussed. If you haven't already done so, be sure and read Mike Sercher's letter on the last page of our April newsletter. No problems with the '88 repeater have been reported within the last month or two. Jim, K9RU, reported he has advised the Indiana two meter frequency coordinator it is OK to coordinate the Hortonville, IN repeater on 146.265/146.825. No interference with our 146.88 has been observed. Also pointed out, potential GOTA operators on Field Day may get some on the air experience in the upcoming Indiana QSO Party, May 7. Several members indicated the plan to attend the Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22. Get your advance tickets: <https://hamvention.org/>

**RCA ARC AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION** – If you're planning to go to the Hamvention, the Club lunch get-together will be as usual. Grab something from the food vendors and meet at 12 noon in the grandstand. On Friday evening the show closes at 5 pm.

We will be monitoring use 144.43 MHz simplex.

**We are planning to together at a local restaurant at 5:30 pm after the hamfest.** If you wish attend email K9RU at [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net) so we can know how many for the reservation. Also include your contact information (i.e cell phone number) so we make a reservation and can pass along location and/or last minute changes.

### AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSION

**Date:** Saturday, **June 11, 2022**  
**Time:** Starting at 12:00 pm **by appointment only.**  
**Location:** Salvation Army EDS Training Facility, 4020 Georgetown Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46254-2407  
**Required: FRN and completed form NCVEC 605.**  
**Contact:** Jim Rinehart, [k9ru@arrl.net](mailto:k9ru@arrl.net), 317 721-1458

**REMINDER: INDIANA QSO PARTY (INQP) MAY 7** – Remember, the Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is May 7<sup>th</sup> from 11AM until 11PM. The INQP is a casual contest with stations outside of Indiana trying to work all the Indiana counties.

Stations in Indiana to work as many stations as possible and including other Indiana counties.

You can operate on 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, and 10M, both CW and SSB (no FT8).

40M is likely to be the most popular band, with 20M during the day and 80M at night.

Since I also do the Mini-Marathon, I don't get on till about 3PM checking out 20M and 40M and in the evening 40M and 80M.

So far this year 10M and 15m band conditions have been very good, check out those bands. Techs can only operate on 10M SSB

Check out HDXCC: logging programs, county abbreviations other information: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html> – Jim K9RU.

## **HAMFESTS, OPERATING EVENTS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

|           |                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 7     | Indiana QSO Party (INQP) <a href="http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html">http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html</a>      |
| May 7     | Indianapolis Mini Marathon                                                                                            |
| May 20-22 | Dayton Hamvention, Green Co. Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH.<br><a href="https://hamvention.org/">https://hamvention.org/</a> |

An expanded, downloadable version of QST's [Contest Corral](#) is available as a PDF. Check the sponsors' website for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

## **ARRL EXPO AT DAYTON HAMVENTION MAY 20 - 22, 2022**

The ARRL, in partnership with the Dayton Hamvention®, will offer FREE EVENTS and forums every day at 2022's Hamvention beginning on Friday, May 20.

### **ARRL Booths**

**Radio Clubs.** Take the Radio Club Health Check!

**ARRL Development and ARRL Foundation.** Raising resources to extend the reach of ARRL programs and services beyond membership dues.

**ARES, The ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® - and featuring ARRL Ham Aid.**

Meet the Authors. Meet ARRL authors and editors who are inspiring today's radio experimenters, operators and innovators. (see schedule in the ARRL exhibit area)

ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative. We Want U to help advance ham radio among college and university students: [www.arrl.org/WeWantU](http://www.arrl.org/WeWantU)

**ARRL Laboratory: Get Your Handheld Radio Tested!**

**ARRL Learning Center.**

**ARRL Teachers Institute.** Meet ARRL Education and Technology Program Instructors and explore the resources available for introducing radio science and wireless technology to everyone! Find ways to make, discover, experiment, explore, and build.

ARRL Great Lakes Division - Visit this gathering area for ARRL Field Organization networking, hosted by the ARRL Great Lakes Division and feature these [ARRL](#) Sections: Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan.

**Radiosport and DXCC.** DXCC Card Checking, ARRL Contests and Awards, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW), and QSL Bureau.

**ARRL VEC and ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program.**

## **The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) - Meet representatives from the IARU.**

### **The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting –**

The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting will have extended hours for this year's Dayton Hamvention®. West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA, will also be open during the extra hours. The Museum will be open Thursday, May 19, from 1 PM to 9 PM; Friday, May 20, from 1 PM to 9 PM; Saturday, May 21, from 1 PM to 9 PM, and Sunday, May 22, from 1 PM to 5 PM. Admission is \$10 at the door. The Museum is a short drive from Hamvention down either Interstate 75 or Route 42 from Xenia. For GPS directions use, Crosley Blvd.

### **2022 Dayton Contest University News**

Tim Duffy, K3LR, has announced that the 2022 Dayton Contest University (CTU) Course Outline is now posted online, at [www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/](http://www.contestuniversity.com/course-outline/). In addition, on Friday, May 20 and Saturday, May 21, there will be a shuttle bus traveling to and from the main entrance to the Hope Hotel that will take hams to the front area of Hamvention. The bus will return to the Hope Hotel for additional passengers. The service will start at 7:00 AM end at 5:00 PM each day, with the last bus leaving from Hamvention. The shuttle bus service is provided by Hamvention and CTU.

### **ARRL-sponsored forums**

#### **2022 ARRL Field Day forum -- Ready, Set, GO!**

ARRL Field Day, ham radio's most popular on-the-air event, is June 25 - 26, 2022. Field Day is fun whether you're participating from the great outdoors with your radio club, or from your home or backyard. It's also a terrific opportunity to practice your personal radio communications readiness, and to demonstrate amateur radio to the public. Hear from a panel of Field Day 'experts' who will cover the educational, operating, and public relations objectives of a successful and fun Field Day. The panel includes:

- Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager, who will cover rules recap and what's new.
- Bob Naumann, W5OV, ARRL Director of Operations, who will discuss Operating tips.
- Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, ARRL Public Relations Committee Member, who will explain how to get a boost by promoting your Field Day activation.

Friday, 1:15 PM to 2:25 PM (Room 3)

#### **ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service -- ARES Forum**

Presenter: Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, ARRL Director of Emergency Management The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) consists of licensed amateurs who have volunteered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Come learn about opportunities to volunteer and train, and to hear stories about best-practices, the importance of building mutually beneficial relationships with local emergency management services, and the importance of our partnerships with served agencies. Sponsored by ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®.

A complete list of Hamvention forums can be found at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org).

#### **ARRL Benefits Include Answers to Your Questions**

The ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) and ARRL Lab complete some of the most important support for ARRL members, as well as for the benefit of all radio amateurs. The TIS is a member's resource for technical problems, understanding the fine points, and getting tips for your projects.

Watch this introduction to the ARRL Lab and summary of services, featuring ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. [Watch Video Now](#)

Ed and his team do amazing work for ARRL members every day and are available if you need help. For more information, check out the [TIS web page](#). If you are not an ARRL member and would like to learn more about membership benefits, [click here](#).

## MOBILE APP AVAILABLE TO NAVIGATE 2022 DAYTON HAMVENTION

Dayton Hamvention® is offering a free mobile app for smartphones and tablets to help attendees navigate the large-scale event, which runs May 20 – 22 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The app, which was introduced in 2019, is offered in a collaborative effort with ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®.

The free ARRL Events app is now available and already includes Hamvention's full program, so attendees can browse and schedule forums, find affiliated events, and preview the extensive list of exhibitors. During the event, attendees can use other app features to follow the hourly prize drawings populated by the Dayton Hamvention Prize Committee, and browse building and site maps.

Attendees are also encouraged to tap on the MyProfile icon in the app to add their name and call sign, email address, and any additional information they would like to share with other Hamvention guests. Additionally, the MyBadge icon displays a QR code of your event badge that can be scanned by another attendee or exhibitor using the Scan Badge icon – instantly connecting shared contact information with other hams at the event.

The app is available for Apple and Android smart devices, or access the web browser version which is optimized for nearly any browser or other type of mobile device. Visit your app store to download the app (search "ARRL Events") or access the links available on the ARRL EXPO web page. If you're reading this article on a mobile device, click [here](#) to be redirected to the appropriate app store, or redirected to the web browser version ([www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl](http://www.tripbuildermedia.com/apps/arrl)). Please email [hamventionapp@arrl.org](mailto:hamventionapp@arrl.org) with any questions about the app.

For more information, please visit these official websites:

- **Dayton Hamvention** [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)
- **ARRL EXPO** at **Dayton Hamvention** [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo)



Use this QR code ...

## AMSAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT DAYTON

[Dayton Hamvention](#)® is only two weeks away! AMSAT has issued a call for volunteers and could use another 10 - 15 people, regardless of their experience level with satellite communications. 2022 Hamvention is May 20 - 22 in Xenia, Ohio. The interaction with AMSAT members, satellite operators, designers, and builders make the whole experience a lot of fun. You can meet or renew acquaintances, exchange operating tips, and find out what antennas, software, and equipment other AMSAT members use. Please send an email to [Phil Smith, W1EME](#), if you can help.

## ARRL YOUTH LICENSING GRANT PROGRAM

The ARRL Youth Licensing Grant Program, in effect since April 19, 2022, will cover the one-time \$35 application fee for new amateur radio license candidates younger than 18 years old for tests

administered under the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program. "We are thrilled that we are able to provide this opportunity to our youth candidates," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

The \$35 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) application fee will be reimbursed after the ARRL VEC receives the completed reimbursement form and after the new license has been issued. The reimbursement check will be mailed to the fee payer. Also, candidates younger than 18 years old would pay a reduced exam session fee of \$5 to the ARRL VEC team at the time of the exam. The \$5 fee is for all candidates under the age of 18, regardless of the exam level taken. Proof of under 18 status is required at the session.

The ARRL Board approved the Youth Licensing Grant Program at its July 2021 meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, expanding on the scope of the original motion proposed by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.

The Board believes the recruitment and training of young amateur radio operators is a necessary and proper mission of the ARRL and subsidization of the \$35 fee will reduce the number of new amateurs that would otherwise be lost from these groups. Initially the new program would serve up to 1,000 new license applicants under 18 years old. The program length is indefinite; it may be renewed or terminated by the Administration and Finance Committee or by the Board of Directors.

Visit the ARRL website for the program instructions and reimbursement form at [www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program](http://www.arrl.org/youth-licensing-grant-program).

## CANADA'S ISED HAS GRANTED HAMS THE RIGHT TO USE SPECIAL CALL SIGNS IN HONOR OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

In honor of Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne (her Platinum Jubilee), Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has approved the use of special call signs for Canadian hams from May 15 to July 14, 2022. These dates correspond with the busy early summer operating season and will be available to all Canadian amateurs who wish to use the special call signs on all occasions, including ARRL Field Day, the June VHF Contest, the RAC Canada Day Contest, and the IARU World Championship. See the Special Event Listing on the Government of Canada [website](#).

## TUBE SHORTAGE

With massive sanctions in effect against Russia due to the war in Ukraine, the supply of vacuum tubes is dwindling fast.

To the average person, a vacuum tube is something of a piece of obsolete technology. Amateur radio operators and guitar players view the vacuum tube with considerably more reverence.

For hams the RF tubes like the 3-500Z, 572B and the 811 have been the standard for high power RF amps for years, but are no longer made in the USA.

For the audiophiles who spend thousands of dollars on home hi-fi gear, a good portion of which is tube-based. You can even buy a CD player with tube-based circuitry.

The vast majority of vacuum tubes are made overseas in China, Russia and Slovakia. A significant number of tubes manufactured by Electro-Harmonix and imported into the United States are made in Russia (EH's sub brands include Sovtek, Mullard, EH Gold, Gold Lion, Tung-Sol and Svetlana).

U.S.-based manufacturers of vacuum tubes for audio applications can be counted on one hand. Scratch that, one finger: Western Electric, still manufacturing tubes in Rossville, GA. (Editor's

note: A company called RCH Labs was established in 2012 in Carson City, NV, briefly flirted with tube production, and folded in 2016).

The pandemic has already made it hard to find the common tubes like the 811, 572b and the 3-500z and it does not look like it is going to get any better soon.

RF power Transistors and FETs are not much better with the recent COVID-19 shut down of China.

## USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

The results are in for the 21st USA Championships in Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). The 4 days of competitions were held from April 7 - 10 in Prince William Forest Park (PWFP) in northern Virginia. The competition results will help determine the makeup of ARDF Team USA at the 20th ARDF World Championships, set for September 2022 in Serbia.

Thirty participants competed in categories for men and women ranging in age from 15 to 70+. All the competitive events were held within PWFP, on maps provided by the Quantico Orienteering Club (QOC) of Quantico, Virginia. In an innovative approach, the Backwoods Orienteering Klub (BOK) of Raleigh, North Carolina, organized and sponsored the event across state lines, applying the Raleigh group's ARDF knowledge and experience to a beautiful new venue.

After a day of practice, the races began on April 7, with the fast-paced sprint event in which two sets of five transmitters operating on two different 80-meter frequencies transmit sequentially in 12-second bursts every minute. "The course was hillier than typical for this event. Nevertheless, none of the finishers exceeded the 60-minute time limit," noted Event Director Joseph Huberman, K5JGH.

Other events included:

**Foxoring** -- This event followed the next day. Foxoring is a timed race in which individual competitors use a topographic map and a magnetic compass to navigate through diverse, wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters (foxes).

**2-Meter Classic** -- This involves locating up to five transmitters on courses of up to 12 kilometers in length. Course lengths and the number of foxes are adjusted for different age and gender categories, so that men, women, youth, and seniors, can traverse courses designed to be appropriate for their capabilities.

**80-Meter Classic** -- This is conducted much like the 2-Meter Classic, but without the reflections and multipath propagation that are often observed at VHF frequencies.

US competitors in the six International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) categories for men aged 19 - 70 and women aged 19 - 65, are under consideration for membership in the US team for the 2022 ARDF Championships. Up to three competitors in each age and gender category and competition format may be on a national team.

For more information on amateur radio direction finding, visit the [ARRL ARDF website](https://www.arrl.org/ardf).

## FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY TO HOST THE 45TH INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO EXHIBITION

After a 2-year break, amateur radio fans will reunite on Lake Constance in Friedrichshafen, Germany, from June 24 - 26, 2022, for HAM RADIO -- the 45th International Amateur Radio Exhibition.

Planning for Europe's largest amateur radio exhibition is under way, and this year's theme is "Seeing Friends Again." While amateurs were able to stay connected during the COVID-19



pandemic, Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) Chairman Christian Entsfellner, DL3MBG, said, "This is exactly what we have been missing over the past 2 years." He further explained, "Despite all the difficulties, this demonstrates how valuable and helpful the amateur radio operator community is. It is high time for personal contact again -- with due attention to the safety of each individual, of course."

Project Manager Petra Rathgeber added, "Together with our exhibitors and partners, we are looking forward to a long-awaited get-together with the international amateur radio industry."

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](#)® will be among the participating [International Amateur Radio Union](#) (IARU) member-societies exhibiting at the convention. The contingent representing ARRL to greet international visitors and to network with representatives of other national ham radio societies will include ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; CEO David Minster, NA2AA; Director of Operations Bob Naumann, W5OV, and Director of Public Relations and Innovation Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. ARRL will offer DXCC card checking at its stand -- a service that's very popular within the international ham radio community.

More information on 2022 HAM RADIO can be found at [www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.com](http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.com).

## FCC NOT PROCESSING NEW LICENSE APPLICATIONS

On Wednesday, April 27, in a notice to all VECs, the FCC again asked them to refrain from submitting any amateur radio exam session or license application files while the Commission works to resolve an issue with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) application filing system.

The ULS application filing system was not functioning properly last week and then the FCC indicated the problem was resolved, as previously reported by ARRL.

However, this was not the case, as no new amateur radio call signs and licenses have been issued since Monday, April 18, 2022.

Tuesday, April 19 is the day the FCC application fees became effective for amateur radio.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports that new call signs are not being assigned by the FCC even if the applicant has paid the FCC application fee.

The FCC was processing upgrade applications through the system without an issue because there are no fees required for those applications.

In addition to new call signs not being issued even if the applicant has paid the FCC fee, some applicants are also having issues paying and logging into the system.

It is not known whether or not the problem has been resolved as of 5-May.

## SHORTS

**Icom, DX Engineering, Team Up for Dayton Megaprize** – Grand prize winner will take home "Icom America Dream Station Package" valued at close to \$20,000

**Balloon Tracking in 2022** – Harold, KE6TI, points out some interesting hardware and software which is available for tracking high altitude balloons. Really neat stuff compared to what we were using twenty years ago! Here are a couple of links: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfVolkXHLPo>, <https://grp-labs.com/u4b>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqNZeh575xw&t=461s>

**Tickets for Contest Dinner** – There may still be some tickets available for the Contest Dinner at the Hope Hotel on Saturday, May 21, with Keynote Speaker Joe Rudi, NK7U. Visit [contestdinner.com](http://contestdinner.com) to purchase tickets.

**New Categories Added to ARRL June VHF Contest** Participants in the Single Operator categories for the June VHF Contest can now enter in All Mode (which includes all digital modes) or Analog-Only (CW and SSB/FM) subcategories. The ARRL Programs and Services Committee, with guidance from the Contest Advisory Committee, has approved this rule change in response to the survey that was sent to participants of ARRL VHF contests late last year. For full rules and details, visit [www.arrl.org/june-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf).

**Radio Fallout from Ukraine Invasion Expands** - Russia and Belarus have been indefinitely suspended from the CEPT, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations

**Orlando HamCation® reported attendance of over 19,000 people for its 2022 event held in February.** Sponsored by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, their 75th anniversary event also played host to the 2022 ARRL National Convention. HamCation is held annually at the 87-acre lakefront Central Florida Fairgrounds and Expo Park in Orlando, and it is one of the largest annual gatherings of radio amateurs in the US. Planning is underway for next year's HamCation, February 10 - 12, 2023. More information is available at [www.hamcation.com](http://www.hamcation.com).

**N3FJP ARRL International Digital Contest Log 1.0 Software Released** Scott Davis, N3FJP, has announced that *ARRL International Digital Contest Log 1.0* is now available. The new addition to the N3FJP Software suite will support the recently announced ARRL International Digital Contest, which will occur on the first weekend of June. The software is available at [www.n3fjp.com/arrldigital.html](http://www.n3fjp.com/arrldigital.html).

**THANKS FOR READING**

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THE RCA ARC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER IS COMPILED AND EDITED BY JIM RINEHART, K9RU AND JIM KEETH, AF9A. ALL MATERIAL CONTAINED HEREIN IS OBTAINED FROM THE SOURCES CREDITED AND EDITED FOR THIS NEWSLETTER. EMAIL TO mail to: [WebMaster@w9rca.org](mailto:WebMaster@w9rca.org). Check our web site at <http://www.w9rca.org>

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